

saved. Utility costs relating to a vacuum means and a heading medium facility can  
be also largely lowered, resulting in a lower running cost as an advantage.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 - 2 as follows:

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1. (amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at a lower part at one end thereof and with an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor provided with a plurality of hollow disks as connected to one another in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, provided with a support member at an end of the outlet side thereof, the outer diameter of the support member being smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side.

2. (amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at the lower part at one end thereof and an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor provided with support members at both ends thereof and with a plurality of hollow disks as connected to one another in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, wherein the outer diameter of the support member positioned at side of the outlet is smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and wherein the reactor is provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side.

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Please add the following new Claims 6 - 7

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--6. A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at a lower part at one end thereof and with an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

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(b) a stirring rotor provided with a plurality of hollow disks as connected to one another in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between

adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, provided with a support member at an end of the outlet side thereof, the outer diameter of the support member being smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side, and wherein the stirring rotor within the vessel is divided into a plurality of stirring blocks according to the viscosity level of the liquid feed.

7. A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at the lower part at one end thereof and an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

*As* (b) a stirring rotor provided with support members at both ends thereof and with a plurality of hollow disks as connected to one another in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and

wherein the reactor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, wherein the outer diameter of the support member positioned at side of the outlet is smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and wherein the reactor is provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side and wherein the stirring rotor within the vessel is divided into a plurality of stirring blocks according to the viscosity level of the liquid feed.--